

CAPSULE SUMMARY
Glen Albin Farm (CH: 564)
7970 Bel Alton Newtown Road
Charles County, Maryland

The high style Colonial Revival dwelling at Glen Albin Farm was erected in 1920 from plans produced by a mail-order kit house building company known as the Aladdin Company. Named the Colonial, the plan and its accompanying building materials were shipped to the site by railroad from Bay City, Michigan. The 1919 building plan was sold for \$1,898.10, which included all materials, the floor plan, and shipping. The Aladdin advertisement boasted, "This modern home with its distinctive features has a large number of admirers. The general lines are taken from New England and Southern colonial architecture, while many original ideas are added." Despite minor alterations to the rear of the building, the Aladdin Colonial at Glen Albin Farm represents the architectural fashions in the second quarter of the 20th century, particularly in rural communities serviced by the railroads. The 170 acre Glen Albin Farm has been in same family for six generations, dating at least to the middle part of the 19th century. The large farm retains many of its outbuildings from the late 19th century and the early 20th century, including a slave cemetery.

The dwelling is two-and-a-half stories high, five bays wide, and two bays deep with a side porch on the southwest elevation. Rectangular in plan, the house rests on a solid parged concrete foundation, and has wood frame walls with weatherboard siding. Typical of the style, the building is covered by a hipped roof sheathed with asphalt shingle. The roof has wide overhanging eaves with a boxed cornice and three hipped-roof dormers. The principal elevation is marked by an elliptical Tuscan portico. There is an original exterior end brick chimney on the southwest elevation, and a modern interior rear brick chimney with a rowlock cap at the northwest.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. CH:564

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1. Name of Property

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historic name Glen Albin Farm

common/other name _____

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2. Location

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street & number 7970 Bel Alton Newtown Rd not for publication _____
city or town La Plata vicinity _____ state Maryland code MD
county Charles County code 17 zip code 20646

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

N/A

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

N/A

=====

5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing

<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____

No ☒

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6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Solid: Parged Concrete

Roof Hipped: Asphalt Shingle

Walls Wood Frame: Weatherboard

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☒ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☒ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Agriculture
Archeology

Period of Significance 1920-1949

Significant Dates 1920

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder The Aladdin Company

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Aladdin "Built in a Day" House Catalog, 1917: The Aladdin Company. New York, New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1995.

Charles County Land and Will Records. Charles County Courthouse and the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

Rivoire, J. Richard. *Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland.* Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust, 1990.

Stevenson, Katherine Cole and H. Ward Jandl. *Houses By Mail: A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company.* Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1986.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 170.785 Acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property at 7970 Bell Alton Newtown Road is designated as Parcel 40, Grid 6 as indicated on Map 55.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The building at 7970 Bel Alton Newtown Road has historically been associated with Parcel 40 since its construction in 1920.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title R. Weidlich and C. Novelli, Architectural Historians
organization EHT Traceries, Inc. date July 15, 1999
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

=====

12. Property Owner

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name David F. and Ann C. Lines
street & number 7970 Bel Alton Newtown Road telephone _____
city or town La Plata state MD zip code 20646

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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The imposing single-family dwelling at 7970 Bel Alton Newtown Road is located at the end of a long gravel driveway with fields and pastures on both sides. The property, known as Glen Albin Farm, has mature trees and shrubs, foundation plantings, and landscaped gardens. Built in 1920, the freestanding house was the second residential building erected on the farm. Supported by documentation in the possession of the present owners, the architectural design and materials used in the construction of the wood frame building are the product of the Aladdin Company of Bay City, Michigan. The mail-order kit house design, known as the Colonial, was produced in 1919, and erected at Glen Albin Farm the following year.

This high style Colonial Revival dwelling is two-and-a-half stories high, five bays wide, and two bays deep with a side porch on the southwest elevation. Rectangular in plan, the house rests on a solid parged concrete foundation, and has wood frame walls with weatherboard siding. Typical of the style, the building is covered by a hipped roof sheathed with asphalt shingle. The roof has wide overhanging eaves with a boxed cornice and three hipped-roof dormers. The principal elevation is marked by an elliptical Tuscan portico. There is an original exterior end brick chimney on the southwest elevation, and a modern interior rear brick chimney with a rowlock cap at the northwest.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

The façade, or the southeast elevation of the building, is five bays wide. The solid foundation is pierced by two rectangular vents that flank the central entry. The first story features an elliptical one-story Tuscan portico set upon a concrete base. The flat roof of the portico, originally ornamented with a balustrade, is supported by tapered columns, both freestanding and engaged. The single-leaf wood door has panels and lights, framed by three-light sidelights. The wide casings of the entry are square-edged with molded backbanding. To either side of the porch are the original 9/1 windows. On the second story, symmetrically spaced, the center bay has two small 6/1 wood windows flanked by four 9/1 wood windows (two on each side). All of the openings have wood sills, louvered shutters, and square-edged casings with backbanding and projecting lintel caps. The three dormers contain narrow 6/1 wood windows and asphalt shingle siding. The shall hipped roofs of the dormers are sheathed with asphalt shingles and have molded ogee cornices.

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The northeast elevation contains two rectangular vents in the slightly raised foundation. The first story has two 9/1 wood windows on the eastern end, and a large multi-light window to the west. While many of the windows on this elevation are original, the floor plan produced by the Aladdin Company indicates the multi-light picture window in the west bay should have originally been filled by paired double-hung windows. The Aladdin plan also indicates a narrow opening at the center of the elevation, on the first story. However, there is no indication this opening was ever created. The second story features three 9/1 wood windows. All of the openings have wood sills, louvered shutters, and square-edged casings with backbands and lintel caps.

The rear, or northwest elevation, has a full-width, one-story porch with a half-hipped roof and square wood post supports. The porch, a late 20th century addition, is set upon a stone foundation. The first story of the main block features a single-leaf, panel-and-light door in the northern bay. Two modern 1/1 aluminum windows were added to the central bay, while the southern bay hold two 9/1 windows original to the plan. The second story has an standard-sized window in the southern bay, holding a replacement 1/1 sash. To the north is a paired 1/1 metal window that is smaller in size. An even smaller window, holding the original 6/1 sash, is located to the north. All of the openings have wood sills, louvered shutters, square-edged casings and projecting lintels.

The southwest elevation has a one-story, three-bay wide porch with a half-hipped asphalt shingle roof. Original to the building design, the porch is set upon concrete piers with lattice. The roof, with its boxed cornice and wide frieze, is supported by four tapered Tuscan columns. The Aladdin plan proposed turned balusters to enclose the sides of the porch, although no indication was noted on the building that a balustrade had existed. An exterior end brick chimney runs up the center of this elevation. On the first story, flanking the chimney shaft, is a 1/1 metal replacement window and a double-leaf French door. The Aladdin plan presented the single window opening as a secondary double-leaf entry. On the second story are two openings with 1/1 replacement window and an original 9/1 window.

The floor plan produced by the Aladdin Company for the Colonial in 1919 has a central-passage, double-pile plan consisting of five rooms on the first floor and four bedrooms.

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OUTBUILDINGS BUILDINGS:

North of the house, there are two 1920s grain sheds. Clad with corrugated sheet metal, they are one-story in height, one bay wide, and have standing seam metal roofs. One shed has a side gable roof; the other has a hipped roof with semi-conical ends.

According to the owner, there is a slave cemetery on the property, but the grave markers are no longer visible. The cemetery is located to the north of the main dwelling.

East of the house, in the middle of a wheat field, is a one-story, one-bay wide wood frame barn. Built in the last half of the 19th century, it has vertical board siding, and a double-leaf vertical board door. Typical of the period, it has a steeply pitched gable roof of standing seam metal.

The wood frame stable was built in the 1920s, and stands west of the house. One-story in height and three-bays wide, it features board-and-batten siding, double-leaf vertical board doors, and a front gable corrugated sheet metal roof with exposed rafter ends.

A 1920s wood frame poultry shelter stands directly behind the house. One-story high and one-bay wide, it has board-and-batten siding, a gable standing seam metal roof, and a single-leaf vertical board door. Like the typical 20th century chicken house, the gable roof is long, low, and broadly pitched.

To the northeast side of the poultry shelter is a 1960s wood frame garage, which is two-stories high and one-bay wide. It features weatherboard siding and a front gable, asphalt shingle roof.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
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Section 8 Page 1

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The high style Colonial Revival dwelling at Glen Albin Farm was erected in 1920 from plans produced by a mail-order kit house building company known as the Aladdin Company. Named the Colonial, the plan and its accompanying building materials were shipped to the site by railroad from Bay City, Michigan. The 1919 building plan was sold for \$1,898.10, which included all materials, the floor plan, and shipping. The Aladdin advertisement boasted, ❖ This modern home with its distinctive features has a large number of admirers. The general lines are taken from New England and Southern colonial architecture, while many original ideas are added.❖¹ Despite minor alterations to the rear of the building, the Aladdin Colonial at Glen Albin Farm represents the architectural fashions in the second quarter of the 20th century, particularly in rural communities serviced by the railroads.

The 170 acre Glen Albin Farm has been in same family for six generations, although last names have changed due to marriages. The history of the Chapman family dates from the middle part of the 19th century with the town's first dwelling and store erected in 1872 by local land owner Robert Chapman. The large farm retains many of its outbuildings from the late 19th century and the early 20th century. The location of the original dwelling, burned down in the first quarter of the 20th century, is evident. Dating back to the 19th century, the farm was originally worked by slaves. In fact, a slave burial ground exists on the property, although the grave markers are no longer standing.

Mail order kit houses were a popular method of housing construction in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The largest, and by far the most well known, of the mail-order companies was Sears, Roebuck and Company of Chicago, Illinois. The company began to design and sell kit houses in the mid-1890s, and in its three decades of operation, Sears made a substantial contribution to 20th century housing in America. Sears was not the only American company to manufacture or sell houses through mail-order catalogues, nor was it the only company to sell house designs. The late 19th and early 20th centuries were ripe for entrepreneurs who sold architectural plans as well as the building materials. The Hodgson Company, Aladdin Homes, Ray Bennett Lumber Company, and Montgomery Ward all had their start in the housing business between 1895 and 1910. Started in 1905, the Aladdin Company, originally the North American

¹ Aladdin "Built in a Day" House Catalog, 1917: The Aladdin Company, (New York, New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1995), p. 30.

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Construction Company, was based out of Bay City, Michigan. One of the reasons for the popularity of kit houses was that they consciously reflected popular American tastes for the period. All shipping was done by rail; consequently the largest concentration of mail-order houses is in the Northeast and Midwest, which were all served by more rail lines.²

The frame dwelling at Glen Albin Farm is an example of the Colonial Revival style house in Charles County. Popular in the United States between 1880 and 1955, the Colonial Revival style resulted from the rebirth of interest in the colonial English and Dutch houses of the eastern seaboard coincident with the Philadelphia Centennial. Stylistic details in Colonial Revival domestic buildings were drawn primarily from the Georgian and Federal styles. Although Colonial Revival buildings at the beginning of the 20th century reflected their colonial influences more clearly, those that were constructed after World War II were more simplified, with details that suggested rather than duplicated the original examples. Like many Colonial Revival style houses, this dwelling features a rectangular plan with a symmetrical façade, wood weatherboard cladding, double-hung windows, and an elliptical portico supported by Tuscan columns.

The property is located near the intersection of Bel Alton Newtown Road and Charles Street, thus having direct access to the towns of La Plata and Bel Alton. Both La Plata and Bel Alton, also known as Cox's Station, have railroad stations along the Baltimore and Potomac main rail line, which was laid in the 1870s. This close proximity to the railroad eased the delivery of the Aladdin mail-order house. Located near these stations on the Baltimore and Potomac (B & P) rail line, the house reflects the profound influence the railroad had on development in southern Maryland. Following the Civil War, southern Maryland adjusted to shifts in economic activity and population centers. Railroads made the greatest impact upon community development in this period, particularly the completion of the B & P's main line from Bowie in Prince George's County to Pope's Creek in Charles County in 1872.

² Katherine Cole Stevenson and H. Ward Jandl, *Houses By Mail: A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company*, (Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1986), pp. 19-30; *Aladdin "Built in a Day"*, passim.

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Small towns grew around the regular stops on the B & P line, and developed as service centers for the surrounding rural areas. From the second quarter of the 20th century to the present day, the dependence on the auto and the expansion of the road and highway systems, linked rural Maryland to the urban centers and contributed to the development and suburbanization of the region.

National Register Evaluation:

The house at 7970 Bel Alton Newtown Road is eligible due to the fact that it meets National Register Criteria C and D. Preliminary research has revealed the building was the product of a mail-order kit-house, and therefore is unusual and distinguished in rural Charles County. Additionally, the history of the property dates from the middle part of the 19th century, if not earlier, and retains physical remains of a 19th century dwelling and a slave cemetery. Thus, there is evidence that the property is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D). The property, however, has not association between the building and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) or the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). Thus, the property is National Register-eligible.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended *[initials]* Not Recommended _____

Comments:

Review, OPS: *[signature]* Date: 11/4/99

Reviewer, NR Program: _____ Date: _____

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Glen Albin Farm
name of property
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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)
Modern Period (1930-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape, and
Community Planning
Agricultural

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Known Design Source: The Aladdin Company

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

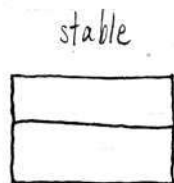
Inventory No. CH: 564

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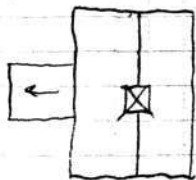
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Chain of Title:

- November 28, 1890: Mary C. Chapman, John G. Chapman, Jr., Katie G. Chapman, Susan P. Chapman, Margaret L. Chapman Robertson, and Powhatan W. Robertson to William B. S. Chapman
Land Records of Charles County
Liber JST 3 Folio 576
- February 18, 1943: William B. S. Chapman to Henry and Kathryn C. Compton
Land Records of Charles County
Liber 77 Folio 571
- June 12, 1974: Henry and Kathryn C. Compton to Katherine C. and John R. Long, and Ann C. and Donald F. Fey
Portion of property
Land Records of Charles County
Liber 344 Folio 109
- August 25, 1982: Donald F. Fey, Personal Representative of the estate of Henry Compton, to Ann C. Fey and Katherine C. Long
Land Records of Charles County
Liber 850 Folio 107
- August 25, 1982: Katherine C. Long to Ann C. Fey
Land Records of Charles County
Liber 850 Folio 109
- September 9, 1982: Ann C. Fey to Donald F. and Ann C. Fey
Land Records of Charles County
Liber 853 Folio 163
- October 27, 1989: Donald F. Fey to Ann C. Fey
Land Records of Charles County
Liber 1422 Folio 489
- September 21, 1992: Ann C. Fey, now known as Ann C. Lines, to David F. and Ann C. Lines
Land Records of Charles County
Liber 1699 Folio 244

CH-564



poultry shelter



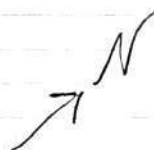
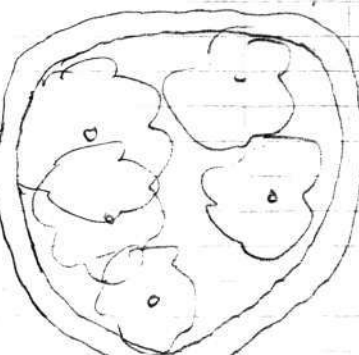
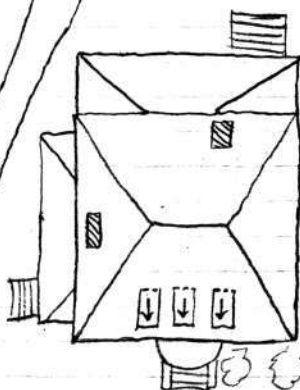
garage

grain storage
sheds



slave
cemetery

gravel parking



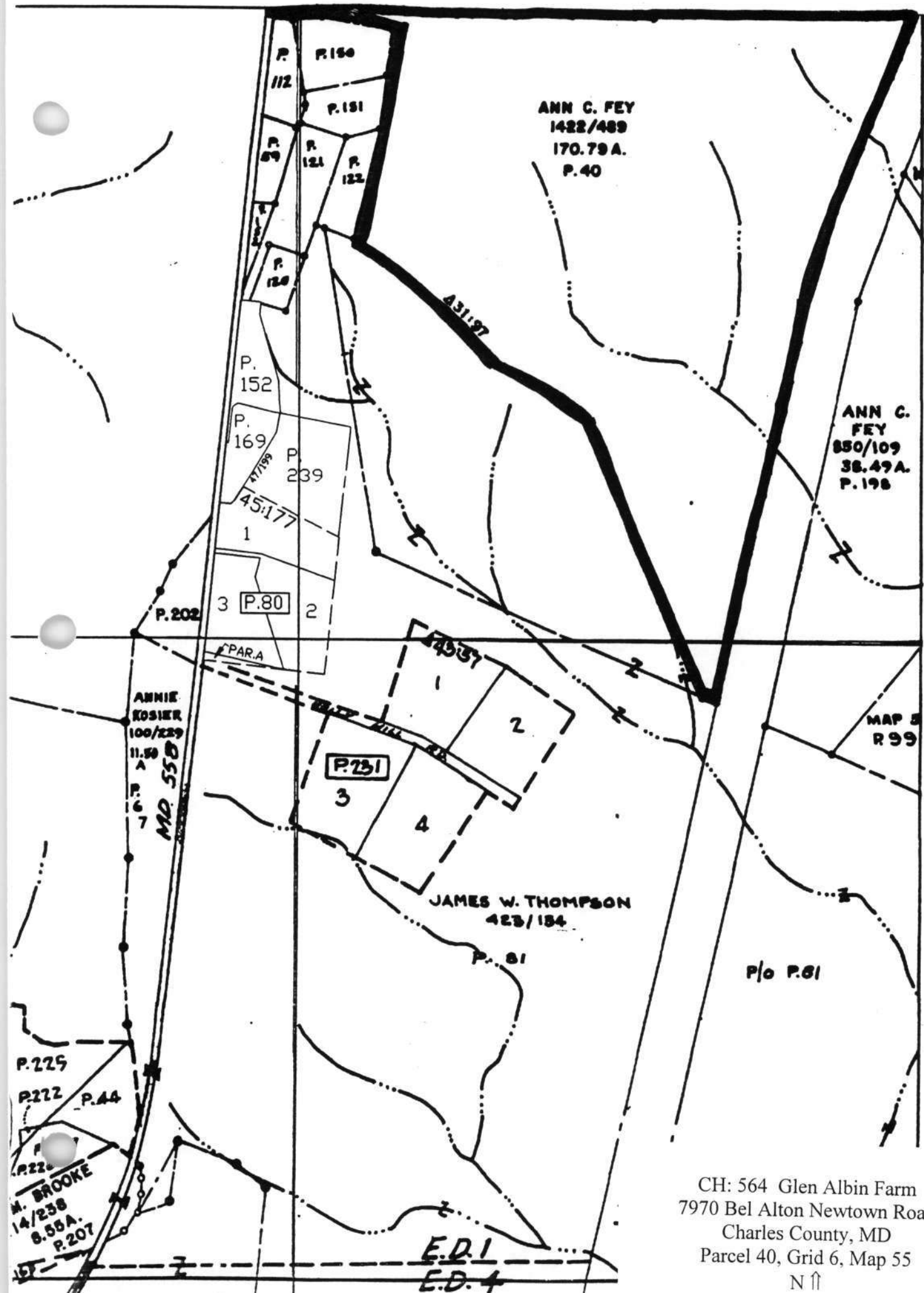
barn



Glen Albin Farm CH:564
7970 Bell Alton Newtown Road

Charles County
Maryland

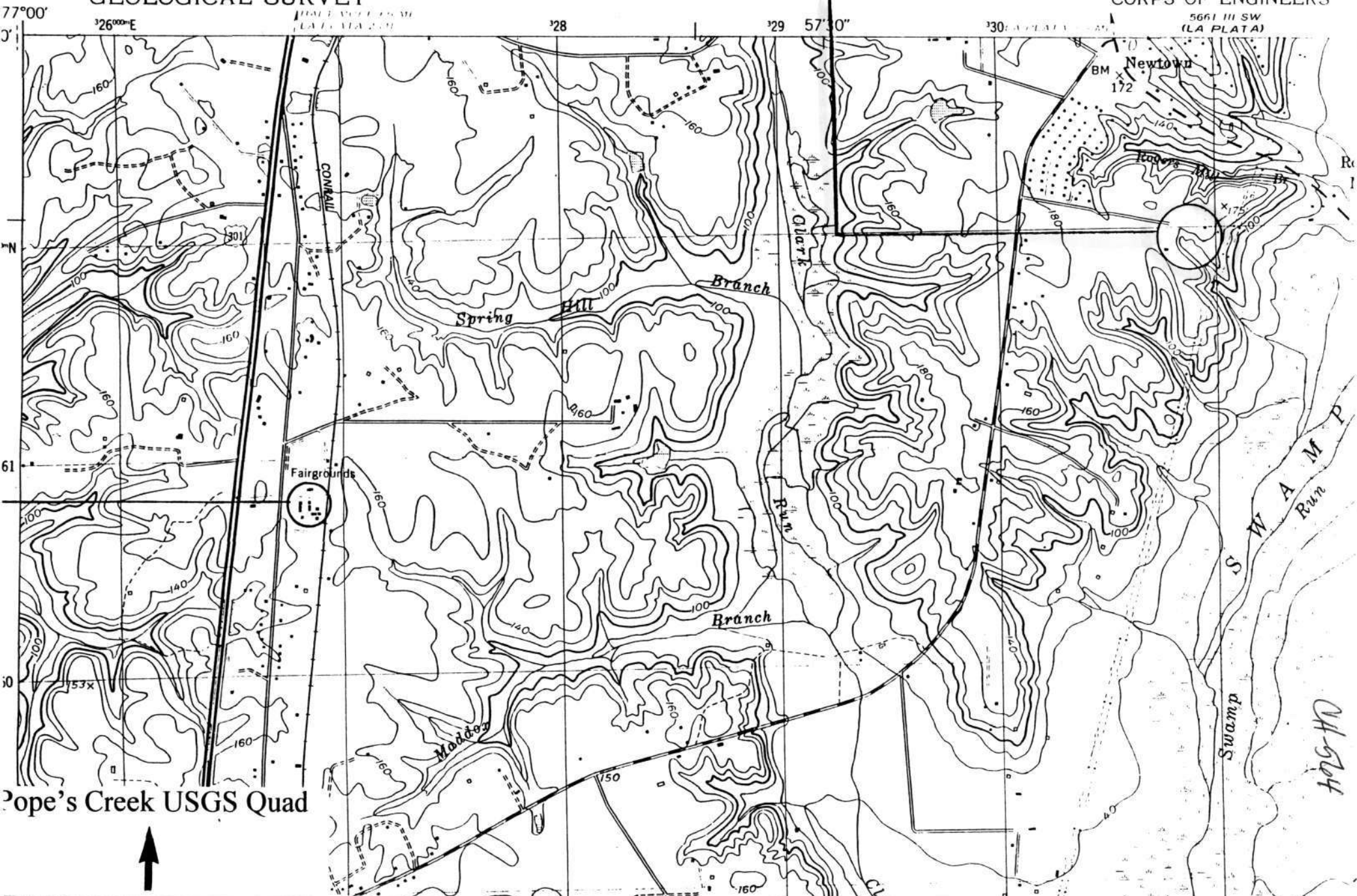
Resource Sketch Map 1979
Not to Scale



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

7970 BEL ALTON NEWTON ROAD
CH: 564

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS





CH:564

GLEN ALBIN FARM

7970 BEL AIRTON HEWITOWN ROAD

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

South corner

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CH:564

GLEN ALBIN FARM

7970 BEL ALTON NEWTOWN ROAD

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

east corner

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CH: 564

GLEN ALBIN FARM

7970 BEL ALTON HEWITOWN ROAD

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD GHPD

west corner

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CH: 564

GLEN ALBIN FARM

7970 BEL ALTON NEWTOWN ROAD

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

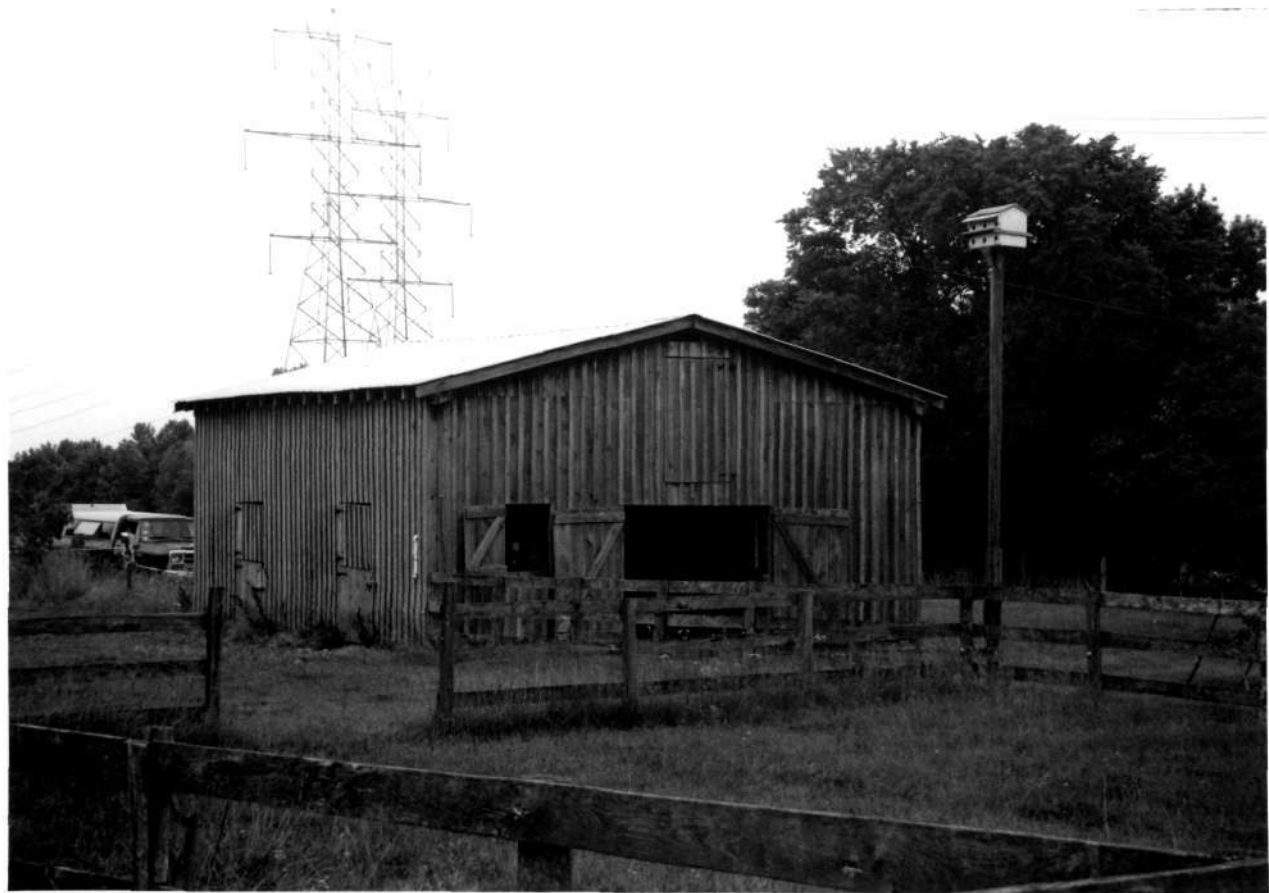
TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

South corner

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CH:564

GLEN ALBIN FARM

7970 BEL ALTON NEWTOWN ROAD

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

stable

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CH1504
GLEN ALBIN FARM
7970 BEL ALTON NEWTOWN ROAD
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES
JUNE 1999
MD SHPO
poultry shelter
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GLEN ALBIN FARM
7970 BEL ALTON NEWTOWN ROAD
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES
JUNE 1999
MD. SHPO

grain sheds
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CH:564

GLEN ALBIN FARM
7970 BEL ALTON NEWTOWN ROAD
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES
JUNE 1999
MD SHPO

barn

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